

Remarks

The undersigned's Remarks are preceded by related comments of the Examiner, presented in small bold-faced type.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 25-31 allowed

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

10. Claims 7, 9, 15-17, 19, 20, 22-24, and 29-31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 7 is allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's indication. In particular, the limitations of claim 7 have been incorporated into its corresponding base claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-6 and 8-11 depend, directly or indirectly, on claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons stated with respect to claim 1.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 20 is allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's indication. In particular, the limitations of claim 20 have been incorporated into its corresponding base claim 12. Accordingly, claim 12 is now in condition for allowance.

Response to Office Action
U.S. Application No. 10/008,746
Docket No. 6175-045

Claims 13-19 and 21-24 depend, directly or indirectly, on claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons stated with respect to claim 1.

With regard to claims 29-31, the Examiner has stated that these claims are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The undersigned assumes this is a typographic error as the Examiner has already allowed the base claim 25 and, in fact, in paragraph 9 of the Office Action, indicated that each of claims 25-31 are allowable.

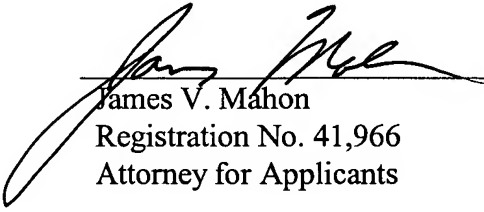
Conclusions

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended and claims 7 and 20 canceled. Claims 1-6, 8-19, 21-31 are now pending and believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that all pending claims be allowed.

Please apply any credits or excess charges to our deposit account number 50-0521.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 2, 2004



James V. Mahon
Registration No. 41,966
Attorney for Applicants

MAILING ADDRESS
Clifford Chance US LLP
31 West 52nd Street
New York, NY 10019-6131
212-878-8073 – tel.